

I am commenting on the American Radio Relay League's Amateur Radio licensing restructuring proposal, RM-10867.

I am in agreement with their proposal on the following issues:

- 1) Instant upgrade of all Advance Class licensees to Amateur Extra Class.
- 2) The establishment of a codeless entry level Novice Class, granting limited HF CW/data/phone/image privileges as well as VHF and UHF privileges.
- 3) Requiring the five words per minute code examination for Amateur Extra Class only.

I am in disagreement on one issue; that being the automatic upgrade of all Technician Class licensees to General Class.

I believe that current Technician Class licensees should be required to pass the General Class element three written examination.

Granting General Class privileges to Technicians who passed element two alone cannot be justified, since element

three has more focus on HF operation and more in depth theory than element two. Also, it would not be fair to the current General Class

licensees who have had to study to EARN their HF privileges. If the ARRL wishes to streamline a three class licensing structure, they should

have proposed to absorb the Technician Class into their "new" Novice class. Doing so would give Technicians a flavor of HF operation,

and the incentive to upgrade to General Class, without losing any of the privileges they presently enjoy. In fact, many Technician Class

licensees have stated on the various Amateur Radio websites that they have no objection to passing element three to prove that they

have increased their knowledge of the radio art, and have EARNED their access to the General Class HF frequencies.

Taking pride in one's accomplishments moving up the licensing ladder has always been an integral element of Amateur Radio.

The ARRL's proposal is in effect sacrificing learning and knowledge for the convenience of simplifying the licensing structure.

Sincerely,

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